

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 10-24 as follows:

Accordingly, in ~~an~~ one aspect, the invention provides a process of reducing the concentration of SO_x in a SO_x-containing gas, said process comprising treating said SO_x-containing gas with an effective amount of particulate petroleum coke at an effective SO_x removal temperature ~~of reduced SO_x concentration~~ to produce a treated gas of reduced SO_x concentration; and removing said treated gas.

Amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 31-32, as follows:

The processes as hereinabove defined is also applicable to removal of metal species, including mercury species.

Amend the paragraph at page 6, line 33 to page 7, line 4, as follows:

In a further aspect, the invention provides a process for the production of activated carbon from particulate petroleum coke, said process comprising treating said petroleum coke with an effective amount of a SO_x-containing gas at an effective temperature to effect reduction of said SO_x concentration in said gas to produce a treated gas of reduced SO_x concentration according to processes of the invention as hereinabove defined and said activated carbon ~~coke~~; and collecting said activated carbon ~~coke~~.

Amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 5-11 as follows:

In yet a further aspect, the invention provides a process for the production of

activated carbon and elemental sulphur from a SO_x-containing gas and particulate petroleum coke, said process comprising treating said petroleum coke with an effective amount of a SO_x-containing gas at an effective temperature to effect reduction of said SO_x concentration in said gas to produce a treated gas of reduced SO_x concentration according to the invention as hereinabove defined, said activated carbon and said elemental sulphur; and collecting said activated coke and said elemental sulphur.

Amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 31-32 as follows:

The activated carbon according to the invention has been demonstrated to be a most environmentally useful absorbent for both organic and inorganic species. Thus, the invention further comprises treating the activated carbon with a metal species-containing gas at a metal species adsorption temperature to effect adsorption of the metal species on the activated carbon to produce of a gas having a reduced metal species concentration. The metal species adsorption temperature can be the same as the SO_x-removal temperature.

Amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 14-15 as follows:

Figure 3 - ~~are graphs~~ is a graph showing gas phase species as a function of residence time in a reactor at 800 °C;

Amend the paragraph at page 21, line 1 as follows:

[[Claims]] The invention claimed is: